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REMARKS

This amendment is in response to the Final Office Action dated December 5, 2005. Claims 1, 3-10, 12, 15, 16, 20-25, 28-29 are pending in the application. Claims 4-6 and 8-10 are withdrawn. Claims 1, 3, 7, 12, 15, 16, 20-25 and 28-29 are rejected. In this Amendment rejected claim 29 has been cancelled. Applicants respond to the rejection of claims 1, 3, 7, 12, 15, 16, 20-25 and 28 and the withdrawal of claim 8 as follows.

Response to Withdrawal of Claim 8

In the Office Action, claim 8 was withdrawn from consideration on the basis that claim 8 does not read on the elected species of FIGS. 6-8. Claim 8 has been amended to recite a raised center portion which reads on portion 236 of the elected species of FIGS. 6-8. Reconsideration and allowance of amended claim 8 is respectfully requested.

Response to Claim Objections

Claims 1, 3, 4-10, 12, 15-16, 20-25, 28 and 29 were summarily objected to based upon punctuation. Claim 29 has been cancelled and claims 1, 3, 4-10, 12, 15-16, 20-25, and 28 are properly punctuated. Withdrawal or clarification of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claim 25 has been amended to obviate the objection set forth in the Office Action and withdrawal of the objection based upon the amendments to claim 25 is respectfully requested.

Response to Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement in view of the recitation of "the intermediate portion having a length dimension no larger than the length dimension of the leading edge portion and the trailing edge portion". This is fully supported by Applicants' specification, page 7, lines 6-10 and claims as originally filed.

Although Applicants do not concede the rejection of claim 1

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under 35 U.S.C. § 112, claim 1 as amended no longer recites an intermediate portion having a length dimension no larger than length dimensions of a leading edge portion and a trailing edge portion and accordingly withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Response to Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Murray, U.S. Patent No. 5,353,180. Claim 1 as amended recites a stepped bearing surface which is not taught by Murray. Upon allowance of claim 1, Applicants respectfully request allowance of withdrawn claim 9.

Claims 21, 28, 3, 22-25, 7, 12, 15, 16 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Park, U.S. Patent No. 6,411,468. Claim 29 has been cancelled and claims 21, 28, 3, 22-25 and 7 have been amended to recite a stepped bearing surface proximate to the raised center pad and recessed from the raised center pad and elevated from a cavity surface which is not taught nor suggested by Park.

Claims 12, 15 and 16 as amended recite a raised bearing surface having a narrow cross width along a leading edge portion of the slider body. In Parks, cross bar 140 and bearing surfaces 150, 151 are formed along the intermediate portion not the leading edge portion of the slider body as claimed.

Claim 20 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Wang, U.S. Patent No. 6,275,467. Claim 20 as amended is a means-plus-function claim that recites a bearing surface means on the slider body for limiting off-nodal pressurization. Claim 20 was rejected on the basis that Wang teaches a bearing pressure profile to limit nodal pressurization. This is not claimed in claim 20. Claim 20 recites a means for limiting off nodal pressurization not a means for limiting nodal pressurization as set forth in the Office Action on page 7, ¶ 7.

Thus the Office Action fails to recite a *prima facie* basis to

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reject claim 20 since claim 20 recites a means for limiting off nodal pressurization not a means for limiting nodal pressurization as set forth in the rejection.

Further FIG. 3 of Wang teaches a large off nodal pressure profile which is opposite to the recited means to limit off-nodal pressurization.

Withdrawn claims 4-6 and 10 have been amended to depend upon claim 21. Applicants respectfully request allowance of withdrawn claims 4-6 and 10 upon allowance of claim 21.

New claim 30 is added. Favorable action with respect to new claim 30 is respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully request acknowledgement of the formal drawings filed with the Amendment of September 22, 2005.

The Director is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

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